

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A method for the automatic creation of a visual representation of a message,  
2   the method comprising the steps of:  
3           opening a first window displaying an object;  
4           opening a second window;  
5           selecting the object in the first window and dropping the object into the second  
6           window;  
7           capturing an image of the selected object as displayed in the first window;  
8           creating a new object in the second window;  
9           adding the captured image to the new object  
10          identifying a reference to the selected object; and  
11          adding the reference to the new object.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected object is a web page, and the  
2   reference is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to the web page.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected object is a message object, and  
2   the reference is a message identifier to the message object in a messaging system.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected object is a hypertext link, and the  
2   method further comprises the steps of:  
3           retrieving a web page corresponding to the hypertext link;  
4           displaying the web page in a browser; and

5           generating a screen shot of the browser.

1           5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a selected object  
2   in a memory; and wherein the step of identifying a reference includes identifying a  
3   reference to the memory that stores the selected object.